

derful inheritance? Have we the faith to lay hold on this stupendous promise? Not until we first prove God by establishing strong churches in the great cities of our nation, and from these have the waters of life to go forth as from so many distributing reservoirs to all parts of the world.

My brethren, this truth cannot be unduly emphasized. To preach the Gospel successfully in the great cities of our nations is to reach the uttermost parts of the earth before we are aware of it.

And in all of our city work, if we lose sight of the "regions beyond," if this be not one of the leading incentives in such work, we shall labor at a great loss.

But let me prove that it is unbelief that keeps us poor today, spiritually and financially. Do any of you doubt the truth of the old adage, "To believe is to obey?" No, you cannot doubt this. Well then, to obey is to love, and to love is not to fail, because "Love never faileth," and when we have that "faith that works by love," when we can once believe God as did Abraham, then shall we know the real meaning of successful Christian work in the great cities of our land.

Do you say that we need to know more of self denial,—of self sacrifice, before we can accomplish what God wants us to do? Very true, but when once we believe God, we will then have learned what all these things mean. Listen to God's call to Abraham: "Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee." Here was sacrifice—self denial. And why was the great patriarch able to stand this crucial test? There is but one answer: *He believed God.*

And when later on in life his only son was required to be offered as a living sacrifice, what was it that kept the father of the faithful and made him even more than conqueror? *He believed God.* That is the reason, and the only reason.

Beloved, when we believe God as Abraham did we will realize the meaning of that inspired promise: "I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great, and thou shalt be a blessing." When once we know the real meaning of believing God as Abraham knew it, then shall we know what sacrifice is, not before, and when we get God's thought concerning sacrifice, we will then know what *gospel giving* means, and when we know what it is to give in the gospel sense, then shall we know, and not before, the meaning of real success according to the gospel. Then will we have funds to prosecute with might and vigor all the claims of the Divine, "Go ye," of Matt. 28:19. We shall then have abundance of means to support all of the various departments of church work. Our periodicals, our literature, our university, none of these will be made to lift the voice of distress any longer and cry out, "My leanness! my leanness!" And our city missions will be no longer groaning with poverty and want, and the foreign fields would soon be dotted with

mission plants vigorous and strong. "The people that do know their God shall be strong and do exploits." As a people we have not yet reached the age of exploits, and the only reason is we do not know God, and we fail to know God because we refuse to believe him. If we actually believed God we would soon be made rich by applying the test found in Mal. 3:10, "Bring ye all the tithes into the store-house, that there may be meat in mine house, and *prove* me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it. Brethren, let us have more blessing and *less* room! We have too much room already. Get the windows of heaven wide open today! They are closed and bolted with the strong bolt of unbelief. "God is able to do exceeding abundantly above all we ask or think." And he is as willing as he is able. The only question is, "*Are we willing?*"

I believe that God wants to fulfill in our lives and in our mission, as a people in this present age, that wonderful prayer of the great apostle: "That he would grant you according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith, that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height, and to know the love of Christ which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all of the fullness of God."

O, beloved in Christ, let us ask God today from the very depths of our hearts that we may realize the blessed fulfillment of this prayer!

And more especially would I appeal to my co workers in the ministry. Let us not be satisfied until we have all the fulness of the blessings of the gospel of Christ. Let us no longer limit God in our unbelief. To be filled with this divine fulness, is to have God reveal his Son in us,—and when Jesus Christ is revealed *in us*, we shall then be able to sing to God's glory:

"I'll go where you want me to go, dear Lord,  
Over mountain, or plain, or sea;  
I'll do what you want me to do, dear Lord,  
I'll be what you want me to be."

And when once all the pastors of our beloved brotherhood can unite in singing this in *spirit* and in *truth*, the work of missions will no longer be retarded, missionaries will never again have to leave their little flocks and go forth with shame, and plead for help to keep the enemy from crushing them to the earth, but the windows of heaven will be flung wide open and

#### "SHOWERS OF BLESSING"

will descend, because it brings glory in the highest and joy unspeakable in the upper sanctuary whenever we are willing to let our heavenly Father have the privilege to fulfill in the mission of our lives that sublime petition in that most wonderful prayer of our

blessed Savior, "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven."

#### To the Brethren

As the responsibility of providing for the needs of Brethren Talley and Lyon largely rests upon the Secretary I feel it my duty to publicly state that there are at present no funds coming into my hands, consequently we are running in arrears with the expenses of the mission. I believe that it is the sense of the brethren that the work begun shall be continued, we do certainly not want to retreat from the ground already occupied as that would be the death-blow to the little germ of missionary interest among us, besides it would demonstrate that as we grew richer we grew meaner. During the harder times of three years ago we easily raised over twenty-five hundred dollars a year for home missions, two years ago twenty-one hundred dollars, last year eighteen hundred. Will we keep up this retrograde movement, notwithstanding the fact that we are living in a period of unusual prosperity? At our late National Conference we were made to feel that the church was becoming more and more spiritual, but she does not appear to become more liberal. The two, i. e., spirituality and liberality, must go together to be effective.

Will the ministry take up this matter in their several congregations so that the Lord's treasury may be replenished.

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#### Notes From Zed H. Copp

Home once more. Thanks be unto God for all the great blessings we have so much enjoyed within the last thirty days. The church made no footsteps backward during our absence, but the Sunday-school advanced and the preaching service ably maintained its own in numbers and greatly developed in godliness under the ministration of Brother Keihl.

We all feel our great need of a church building, and are praying God to help us secure it. Meanwhile we are trying to "be strong and work."

Sunday, 23rd inst, is Rally Day for the Sunday-school. Quite an interesting program is being arranged. These special occasions have proved very helpful to our work. I believe, from experience, that they will amply repay any Sunday-school for trouble and expense.

We want to publicly thank those dear friends who are contributing of what the Lord gives them—their means—to the support of this work, for making it possible for us to continue here and conduct the work. May he who gives every good and perfect gift reward you a thousand fold. Also to the host of friends who called upon us at Winona and assured us of prayerful sympathy for this work. May the dear Lord bless them, and everybody else.

We are glad to report that Sister Bond is